

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 COME-00 /097 W
-----125136 181414Z /45

R 161050Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6608
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: YO, PINS, YO
SUBJECT: SHOOTING OF TONI FRLAN

REF: BELGRADE 3674

1. DURING CALL AT HIS OFFICE, FSFA NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE
DIRECTOR STARCEVIC EXPRESSED CONCERN AT FRLAN SHOOTING TO DCM.
HE OPENED BY POINTING OUT (1) THAT YUGOSLAVS REGARD FRLAN AS
AMERICAN CITIZEN, NOT YOGOSLAV, AND (2) THAT THE SHOOTING DOES
NOT REFLECT ON THE US ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM EXPRESSED DURING
THE TITO VISIT.

2. THAT SAID, HOWEVER, STARCEVIC NOTED THAT FRLAN IS THE
SECOND CROAT-AMERICAN WHO SUPPORTED GOOD US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS
TO BE SHOT WITHIN TWO MONTHS. WHILE OPPONENTS ARE A SMALL
MINORITY, AND WHILE FRLAN'S ASSAILANT MAY HAVE BEEN
AN UNAFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL, SUCH ACTS HAVE UNFORTUNATE
EFFECTS HERE AND POSSIBLY ALSO IN THE US. STARCEVIC, WHO
IS A CROAT, SAID THAT HE HAS HAD STRONG REACTIONS TO THE
SHOOTING FROM ZAGREB. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN LEST OTHER
CROAT-AMERICANS HESITATE TO SPEAK OUT OR WORK ON BEHALF OF
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GOOD US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS.

3. IN SOME CONTRAST TO FORMER INCIDENTS, STARCEVIC EXPRESSLY
ABSOLVED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF ANY RESPONSIBILITY
FOR FAILURE TO SOLVE THE RADOVIC SHOOTING THUS FAR, BUT WONDERED
WHETHER NEW YORK POLICE WOULD GIVE ADEQUATE PRIORITY TO SUCH
INVESTIGATIONS.

4. DCM TOLD HIM THAT WE DO NOT YET HAVE DETAILS OF FRLAN INCIDENT BUT THAT, IN ANY CASE, WASHINGTON WAS NOT UNINTERESTED IN SUCH MATTERS AND THAT, AS STARCEVIC HAD ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE, THE US GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON TERRORISM IS CLEAR.

5. IN AN ASIDE DURING THE CONVERSATION, STARCEVIC, REFERRING TO THE US-YUGOSLAV JOINT STATEMENT IN MARCH, SAID THAT YUGOSLAV AGREEMENT TO THE LANGUAGE-WHICH, AS HE POINTED OUT, LACKED REFERENCE TO NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS-- REFLECTED AN IMPORTANT EVOLUTION IN ATTITUDE.
EAGLEBURGER

NOTE BY OC/T: MESSAGE DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CRIMES, EMIGRANTS, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PINS, YO, (FRLAN, TONI)
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